



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 29, 2019

Austin R. Evers  
American Oversight  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> St NW, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005

**RE: FOIA Request No. 19-00911-F**

Dear Austin R. Evers:

This is in response to your February 14, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for all records reflecting communications between any political appointees in the United States Department of Education (ED) Office of Inspector General (OIG) and any employee or representative of Ballard Partners for the period between January 20, 2017 and the date the ED OIG conducted its search for responsive records. The ED OIG received your February 14, 2019, request on March 6, 2019. This response is from ED OIG only. Should other offices have records responsive to your request, they will reply under separate cover.

In a telephone discussion with ED OIG on March 28, 2019, Dan McGrath agreed that communications from Pam Bondi in her role as Florida Attorney General prior to her joining Ballard Partners were not within the scope of this request.

The OIG found no records responsive to your request.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you are not satisfied with my action on this request you may file an administrative appeal by writing within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter to the:

Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
ATTN: FOIA Appeals  
Washington, DC 20202-1500

A copy of your initial request, a copy of this letter and your statement of circumstances, reasons, and arguments should accompany your appeal letter.

400 MARYLAND AVENUE, S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1510

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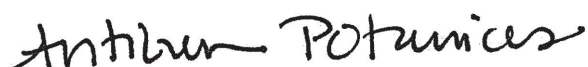
You also have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from our OIG FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The OIG FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation.

You may contact the OIG FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS as follows:

Mail	Carla McKenzie OIG FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW Washington, DC 20202-1500	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	carla.mckenzie@ed.gov	<a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>
Phone	215-656-6027	301-837-1996; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-245-7039	301-837-0348

Seeking assistance from the OIG FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right, or the deadline, to pursue an appeal.

Sincerely,



Antigone Potamianos  
Counsel to the Inspector General

cc: FOIA Service Center